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September 1, 2001

**Via Electronic Filing**

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
The Portals  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte:** Saddleback Communications and Qwest Corporation Joint Petition for  
Expedited Waivers – CC Docket No. 96-45

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Dear Ms. Salas:

At the request of Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) staff, Saddleback Communications (“Saddleback”) provides the following information to clarify its “Joint Petition for Expedited Waivers,” (the “Petition”) filed jointly by Saddleback and Qwest Corporation on June 12, 2001.

Saddleback Communications is a division of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian tribal government. The Salt River tribe is located in Arizona. Its federally recognized reservation, designated the “Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community,” is located east of Scottsdale, Arizona. The Petition seeks establishment of a study area for Saddleback defined by the reservation boundaries. The approximately 2700 access lines involved in this transaction are within the boundaries of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and, thus, within the boundaries of the requested study area.

Saddleback was formed in 1997 to improve and enhance residential and business telecommunications on the reservation. Authorized by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa tribal government, it provides first time and competitive telecommunications services to residents of the reservation. Through a combination of its own wireline facilities and a fixed wireless local loop system operating under an experimental license from the Commission, Saddleback provides local and long distance services utilizing its own central office facilities and Class 5 Nortel switch. The tribe owns all of its telecommunications facilities. Saddleback currently

serves over 300 customers on the reservation.<sup>1</sup> These customers represent both formerly unserved residents, as well as customers that have switched from Qwest (formerly US West) service in order to improve the quality of their telecommunications. Saddleback has brought the telephone availability penetration rate on the reservation to one hundred percent. It currently does not collect universal service funding for its customers.

Pursuant to Part 1 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter has been filed electronically with the Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any comments or further questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

**/s/ James A. Casey**

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cc: Gene Fullano  
Mike Scully

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<sup>1</sup> Saddleback has an agreement with Mountain Telecommunications, Inc., an Arizona Corporation Commission certified competitive local exchange carrier, whereby Mountain assists in the operation and management, on behalf of Saddleback, of Saddleback's telephone network on the reservation.